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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 September 1986

MB  
Prime Minister  
COP  
28/9.

Dear Charles,

Turkey: Ambassador's Farewell Call on President Evren

/ I am enclosing a copy of Ankara telno 457 which records Sir Mark Russell's farewell call on President Evren. You may wish to draw the Prime Minister's attention to paragraph 9.

The Ambassador was able to get across a number of important points, not least on EC/Turkey relations and on international cooperation to combat terrorism. The Turks have made clear on a number of occasions their appreciation of our support. The fact that Anglo-Turkish relations are so warm owes much to Mark Russell's skill. As you know, he is returning to take over from John Whitehead.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 457

OF 191517Z SEPTEMBER 86

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, ATHENS/NAU NICOSIA, WASHINGTON  
INFO ROUTINE ALL OTHER EC POSTS, UKDEL NATO, UKDEL STRASBOURG

FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT EVREN

SUMMARY

1. THE CONVERSATION COVERED TERRORISM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE EC AND THE NEED FOR TURKISH RESTRAINT AND STATESMANSHIP. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY WARM IN HIS APPRECIATION OF BRITAIN'S ROLE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR TURKEY'S PROBLEMS. GREETINGS TO THE QUEEN AND PRIME MINISTER.

DETAIL

2. I PAID MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT EVREN THIS AFTERNOON.

TERRORISM

3. AFTER EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION IN VERY WARM TERMS ABOUT ANGLO/TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE ROLE BRITAIN HAD PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT THE NORMALISATION OF TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE COMMUNITY, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH BRITAIN HAD SHOWN OVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE MILITARY INTERVENTION OF SEPTEMBER 1980. THIS LED HIM INTO A FAIRLY LENGTHY STATEMENT ON TERRORISM, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR THE CLOSEST INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND HIS SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR TERRORIST CRIMES (HE TOOK THE SAME LINE WITH YOU IN FEBRUARY 1985). HE SPOKE WITH SOME INDIGNATION OF THE REFUGE WHICH TURKISH TERRORISTS GUILTY OF CAPITAL OFFENCES WERE ABLE TO FIND IN FEDERAL GERMANY. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO EXTRADITE THEM BECAUSE OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN TURKEY.

4. I SAID THAT WE WERE AT ONE ON THE NEED TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO THAT END. SUCH COOPERATION WAS BEING BUILT UP BETWEEN THE UK AND TURKEY AND WE WISHED TO DEVELOP IT. WE DID NOT HAVE THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UK. CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN AT VARIOUS TIMES TO ITS RETURN. BUT PARLIAMENT HAD VOTED AGAINST. THE RISK OF CREATING MARTYRS WAS A VERY REAL ONE.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

5. BRITAIN HAD INDEED TRIED TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING OF TURKEY'S DIFFICULTIES. WE WELCOMED THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE OVER DEMOCRATISATION AND ERADICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. WE WANTED THAT PROGRESS TO CONTINUE. RECALLING WHAT YOU HAD SAID TO THE PRESIDENT DURING YOUR VISIT HERE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S

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/REMARKS

REMARKS TO MR OZAL IN LONDON, I SAID THAT CONTINUING PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE STRENGTHENING OF TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. EUROPE FELT DEEPLY ON THE SUBJECT.

6. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT TURKEY WANTED FULL RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. HER RIGHTFUL PLACE WAS AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THAT WOULD HAPPEN. BUT THAT WAS TURKEY'S AIM. THIS GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF A STEP BY STEP APPROACH. REFERRING TO YOUR 'GREEN LIGHT' STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS, HE SAID THAT THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL OPENED THE WAY TO TACKLING THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. IT WAS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF GREEK OPPOSITION. THERE WERE OTHER PROBLEMS, NOTABLY FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOUR, AND DIFFERENT ISSUES AFFECTED DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THE ONLY WAY WE COULD SEE OF MAKING PROGRESS WAS THROUGH THE GRADUAL APPROACH AND NOT ATTEMPTING TO RUSH THE ISSUES.

RESTRAINT IN FOREIGN POLICY

7. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD. HE KNEW THAT TURKEY COULD RELY ON CONTINUING BRITISH SUPPORT. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CONCLUDED BY THANKING ME AND WISHING ME WELL.

8. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME REMARKS IN CONCLUSION. HE COULD INDEED COUNT ON CONTINUING BRITISH SUPPORT AND HE WARMLY APPRECIATED WHAT HE HAD SAID. BUT, AS HE HAD INDICATED EARLIER, THE TASK FACING TURKEY AND HER FRIENDS WAS NOT EASY. TURKEY COULD FACILITATE THIS BY HER STATESMANSHIP. SHE HAD SHOWN SUCH STATESMANSHIP THROUGH MR DENKTASH'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS. SHE HAD SIMILARLY SHOWN STATESMANSHIP AT THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND RESTRAINT IN THE AEGEAN. PATIENCE WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE EASY BUT PRECIPITATE MOVES COULD ONLY DAMAGE TURKEY'S INTERESTS AND HANDICAP HER FRIENDS.

MESSAGE TO THE QUEEN AND PRIME MINISTER.

9. FINALLY THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS WARMEST GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND THE PRIME MINISTER.

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AOHPAN 4057

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